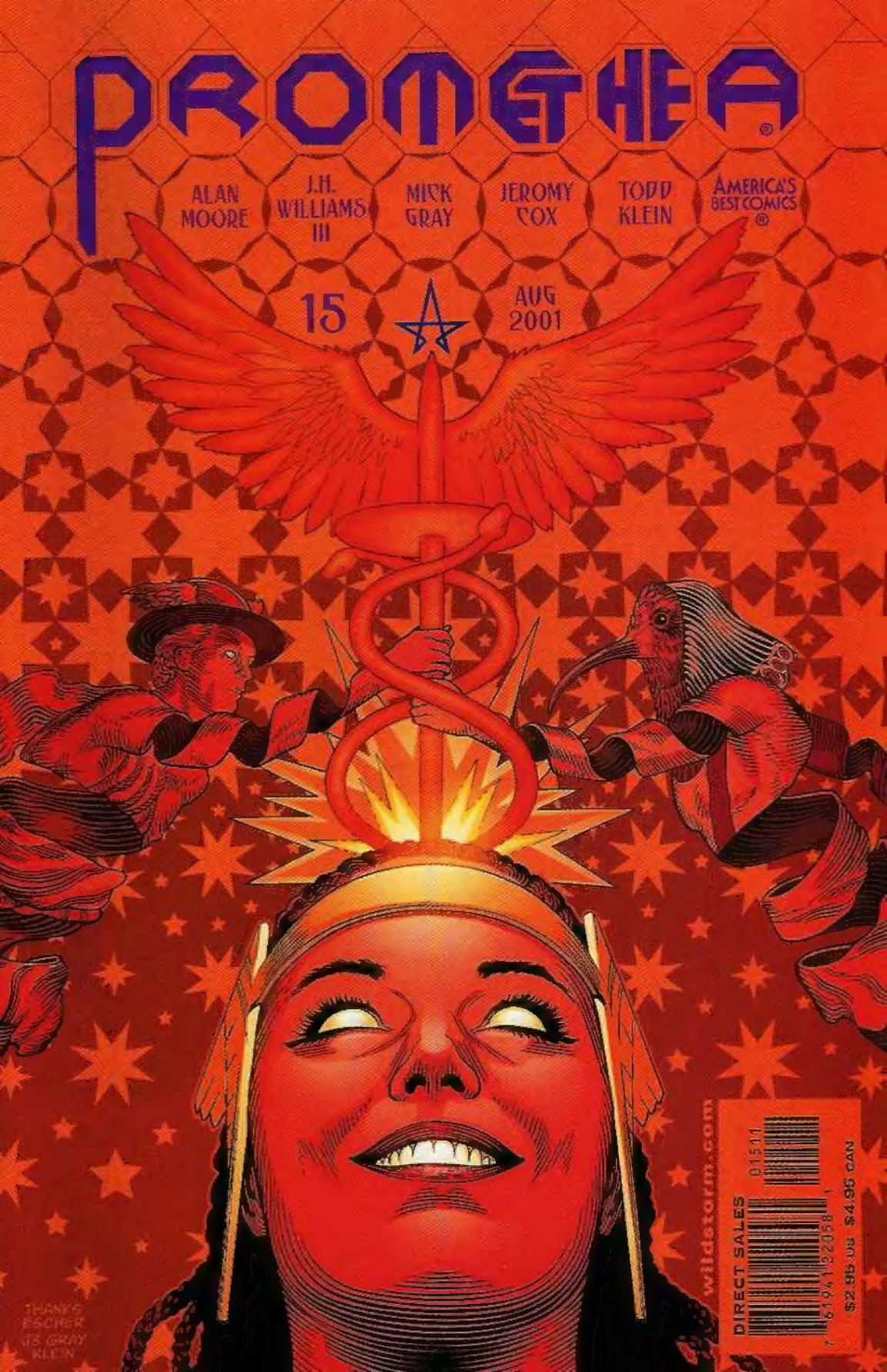
PROMETHEA
ALAN MOORE
J.H. WILLIAMS III
MICK GRAY
JEROMY COX
TODD KLEIN
AMERICA'S BEST COMICS
15
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MALKUTH:
BOY, THIS WEATHER SURE IS HOT, AIN'T IT?
I'M JELLYHEAD, BY THE WAY.
POP
POP
EVERYBODY STAYS CALM, NOBODY'S GOING TO GET HURT.
THE BODY'S CUSTOMIZED ELASTAGEL, INCIDENTALLY, CONTROLLED FROM A REMOTE DISTANCE.
I GOT THE IDEA FROM THAT BIG ELASTA-GEL WIG-OUT LAST NEW YEARS.
I FIGURE, IF THE PAINTED DOLL'S REALLY DEAD THIS TIME, NEW YORK'S GOT A SCIENCE-VILLAIN OPENING, Y'KNOW?
ANYWAY, AS MISTER GUARD HERE'S BEEN KIND ENOUGH TO DEMONSTRATE, BULLETS DON'T HURT ME, OKAY?
NOW, ME, ON THE OTHER HAND, I CAN STOP MISTER GUARD FROM BREATHING. AIN'T THAT RIGHT, MISTER GUARD?
AW, LOOK. HE'S NODDING.
NOW, IF YOU'LL ALL JUST...
POP
...TAKE...
SSSSHHHZZZZZP
POP
ZZZZZZZZZZZZZZT
RRRRZZZZZZZZZZK
SSSSLLLLSSSSHHH
WHUWUZZAT?
POP
B-BOY, IT SURE IS...

PROMETHEA

ALAN MOORE	J.H. WILLIAMS III	MICK GRAY	JEROMY COX	TODD KLEIN	JEFF MARIOTTE	SCOTT DUNBIER
writer	penciller	inker	colors	letters	asst. ed.	editor

MERCURY RISING

PROMETHEA CREATED BY ALAN MOORE & J.H. WILLIAMS III

LET'S HAVE A CLOSER LOOK AT HIM, SHALL WE?
UP YOU COME, SWEETIE.
SKLSH
POP
Y-YOU'RE THAT NEW SCIENCE HEROINE, AREN'T YOU? YOU'RE PROMETHEA...

NO, DARLING, I'M THAT OLD SCIENCE-HEROINE, PROMETHEA.
NOW, AS FOR YOU, OR WHATEVER WAS WORKING YOU, LET'S GET A FEW THINGS STRAIGHT...
POP
POP
POP
POP

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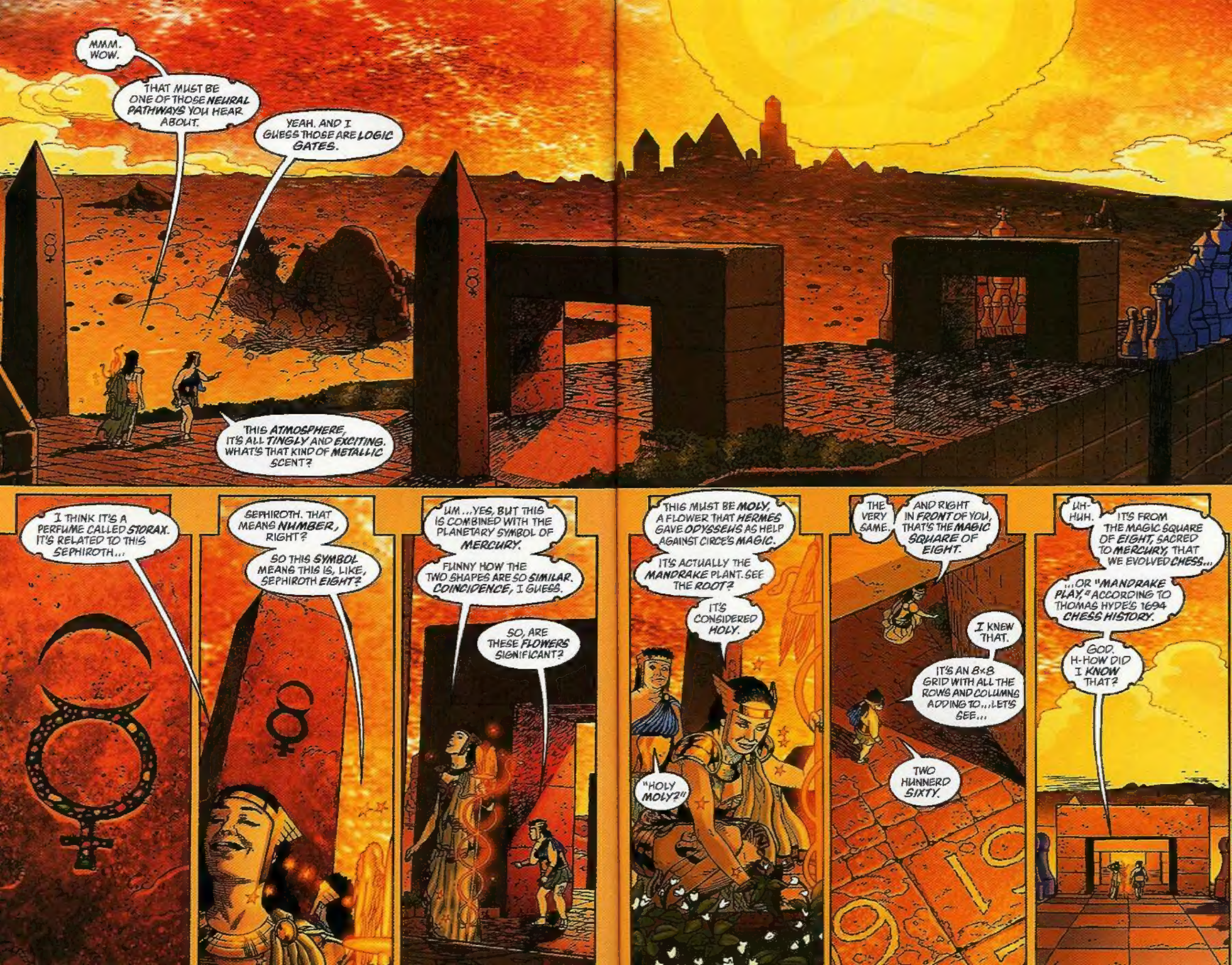
HOD:
HUMH. WELL, HERE WE ARE.
WHERE ARE WE?
THIS IS WHERE THE SUN PATH FROM THE LUNAR KINGDOM TERMINATES.
WE'RE IN THE MERCURIAL REALM OF LANGUAGE, MAGIC AND INTELLECT. ITS HEBREW NAME IS HOD.
THAT MEANS SPLENDOUR.
WHY SPLENDOUR, SPECIFICALLY?
SPLENDOUR
WELL, I SUPPOSE COMMUNICATION IS HOW MINDS REVEAL THEMSELVES. LANGUAGE GIVES A SHAPE TO THE SPLENDOURS OF THE INTELLECT.
YEAH. MY THOUGHTS FEEL ALL, LIKE, FIZZY OR SOMETHING.
THAT LOOKS LIKE THE STATION EXIT, OVER THERE.
HEY, BARBARA, DO YOU FEEL... I DON'T KNOW. SORT OF... PEPPIER? IT'S LIKE, SMARTER, BUT KIND OF MORE PLAYFUL, TOO.

HMM, YOU KNOW, ALL THESE DECORATIONS, THEY'RE EGYPTIAN HIERO-GLYPHICS AND THINGS.
I GUESS THAT TELLING STORIES WITH PICTURES IS THE FIRST KIND OF WRITTEN LANGUAGE.
HEH, PROBABLY THAT'S WHY PROMETHEA'S MOSTLY APPEARED IN COMIC BOOKS THIS LAST CENTURY.
GODS USED TO BE IN TAPESTRIES, BUT NOW THEY'RE IN STRIPS.
HA HA HA! BARBARA, THAT'S A REALLY CLEVER PLAY OF MEANINGS.
Y'KNOW, I JUST THOUGHT: LANGUAGE, IT SHAPES OUR WHOLE CONSCIOUSNESS, HOW WE PUT IDEAS TO-GETHER.
EVEN OUR CONCEPTS OF TIME. BEFORE WE HAD COMMAND OF LANGUAGE, WE COULDN'T RECORD EVENTS IN THE PAST...
YEAH, WELL, AN ELOQUENT NEVER FORGETS.
HA HA! RIGHT. AND ELEPHANTS MAKE TRUNK CALLS, WHICH RETURNS US TO COMMUNICATIONS!
JEEZ. BARBARA, WHERE ARE ALL THESE PUNS AND WORD CONNECTIONS COMING FROM? MY HEAD'S SORT OF RACING...
MINE TOO. IT'S...
OH, WOW.


MMM. WOW.
THAT MUST BE ONE OF THOSE NEURAL PATHWAYS YOU HEAR ABOUT.
YEAH. AND I GUESS THOSE ARE LOGIC GATES.
THIS ATMOSPHERE, IT'S ALL TINGLY AND EXCITING. WHAT'S THAT KIND OF METALLIC SCENT?
I THINK IT'S A PERFUME CALLED STORAX. IT'S RELATED TO THIS SEPHIROTH...
SEPHIROTH. THAT MEANS NUMBER, RIGHT?
SO THIS SYMBOL MEANS THIS IS, LIKE, SEPHIROTH EIGHT?
UM...YES, BUT THIS IS COMBINED WITH THE PLANETARY SYMBOL OF MERCURY.
FUNNY HOW THE TWO SHAPES ARE SO SIMILAR. COINCIDENCE, I GUESS.
SO, ARE THESE FLOWERS SIGNIFICANT?
THIS MUST BE MOLY, A FLOWER THAT HERMES GAVE ODYSSEUS AS HELP AGAINST CIRCE'S MAGIC.
IT'S ACTUALLY THE MANDRAKE PLANT. SEE THE ROOT?
IT'S CONSIDERED HOLY.
"HOLY MOLY?"
THE VERY SAME.
AND RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU, THAT'S THE MAGIC SQUARE OF EIGHT.
I KNEW THAT.
IT'S AN 8×8 GRID WITH ALL THE ROWS AND COLUMNS ADDING TO...LET'S SEE...
TWO HUNNERD SIXTY.
UH-HUH.
IT'S FROM THE MAGIC SQUARE OF EIGHT, SACRED TO MERCURY, THAT WE EVOLVED CHESS...
...OR "MANDRAKE PLAY," ACCORDING TO THOMAS HYDE'S 1694 CHESS HISTORY.
GOD. H-HOW DID I KNOW THAT?

I DON'T KNOW, FRANKLY, I'M GETTING, LIKE, REAL HEAVY DÉJÀ VU ABOUT THIS PATH. HAVEN'T WE COME OVER THIS RISE BEFORE?
THERE IT IS AGAIN! DÉJÀ VU! YOU'VE MENTIONED THAT MÖBIUS STRIP THING BEFORE, I'M SURE. HOW DOES IT WORK, AGAIN?
Y'KNOW, BARBARA, INFINITY'S A SCARY IDEA. I MEAN, HOW DO WE GET OFF THIS THING?
Y-YEAH. I HEARD THEM. AND NOW IT'S GETTING BRIGHTER UP AHEAD AGAIN.
AND DOWN THIS SLOPE? YES. YES, I THINK WE HAVE. AND THERE'S THAT WEIRD SOUND, LIKE PEOPLE TALKING DOWN BENEATH OUR FEET...
IT'S A LOOP WITH A TWIST, LIKE A FIGURE EIGHT. SAY, AM I IMAGINING THINGS, OR IS IT GETTING DARKER UP THAT SLOPE AHEAD?
GOD, BARBARA, YOU'RE RIGHT! THAT'S US, WALKING ON THE BRIDGE'S UNDERSIDE. THIS MUST BE A MÖBIUS STRIP!
THERE! I HEAR THAT? THE VOICES BENEATH US SAID "MÖBIUS STRIP" RIGHT WHEN YOU DID, BEFORE YOU MENTIONED THE INFINITY SYMBOL.
YEAH. Y'KNOW, SOPHIE, ALL THIS MATH AND LANGUAGE AND REASON...
...WHY DO I FEEL THAT SOMETHING BEHIND IT THAT'S SO INTRICATE, SO INSANE?
THIS PATH'S SOME SORT OF TIME-LOOP.
IT HAS TO BE!
MMM. WELL, I GUESS THE MÖBIUS STRIP IS LIKE THE INFINITY SYMBOL OR THE FIGURE EIGHT.
I GUESS IT'S WHERE GENIUS SHADES INTO MADNESS. SAY, IS IT GETTING DARKER AHEAD?
...JUST LOOK ON THAT BRIDGE UP AHEAD! THAT'S US, SOPHIE! THAT'S US FIVE MINUTES AGO!
NOT JUST PECULIAR, OKAY? INSANE! I MEAN...
...BUT A LOOP THROUGH TIME, THAT'S LIKE INFINITY! THAT MEANS IT GOES ON FOREVER!
YOU'RE RIGHT. ALL THE STARS ARE OUT. THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH THIS PATH, HOW IT TWISTS FROM NIGHT TO DAY.
YEAH. THE STARS ARE OUT, AND I STILL HEAR VOICES BENEATH OUR FEET SAYING THE SAME THING, AND... SOPHIE, LOOK THERE! WE'RE AHEAD OF OURSELVES!
...OR IS THAT UP THIS SLOPE? EITHER WAY, IT'S DAY AGAIN. BUT YOU'RE RIGHT: THIS PATH'S CERTAINLY PECULIAR.
YEAH, IT'S AS IF THE PATH SNAKES THROUGH TIME AS WELL AS SPACE. SEE? IT GETS BRIGHTER DOWN THIS SLOPE...
SO WE ARE. YOU WERE RIGHT. IT IS SOME SORT OF TIME-LOOP.
DAMN RIGHT IT IS! WE'RE EVEN BACK THERE BEHIND OURSELVES. I MEAN, A LOOP IN SPACE I CAN UNDERSTAND...

...GETTING, LIKE, REALLY HEAVY DÉJÀ VU ABOUT THIS PATH.
HAVEN'T WE COME OVER THIS RISE BEFORE?
WHUHH...?
BARBARA, OFF THE PATH! WE HAVE TO GET OFF THE PATH NOW!

AND DOWN THIS SLOPE? YES. YES, I THINK WE HAVE...
WOHHH. WOH, JEEZ. I FEEL NAUSEOUS. H-HOW MANY TIMES DID WE GO ROUND THAT DAMN THING?
ONCE? A MILLION TIMES?
I-I'M NOT SURE.
COME ON. WE'D BETTER FIND SOME SAFER ROUTE.

SURE. ASSUMING THERE IS ONE.
Y'KNOW THAT EXPRESSION, "STRAIGHT EIGHT?" THAT'S GOTTA BE SARCASTIC. THIS PLACE IS ANYTHIN' BUT STRAIGHT!
WELL, IT'S "STRAIGHT" IN THE SENSE OF TRUTHFUL. THIS SPHERE'S ABOUT COMMUNICATIONS. TRUTH IS ITS SPECIFIC VIRTUE.
C'MON. LET'S TAKE THIS BRIDGE...

WILL IT HOLD US? THIS SILVERY METAL... IT FLOWS AND CHANGES LIKE LIQUID. WHAT IS IT?
I--I DON'T KNOW. I'M SUDDENLY GETTING THE NOTION THAT IT'S WHAT THOUGHTS AND IDEAS ARE MADE FROM. IT'S LIKE, IDEOPLASM OR SOMETHING.
WE BETTER KEEP MOVING.

UH... YEAH, I GUESS SO. ESPECIALLY SINCE THE BRIDGE BEHIND US AIN'T THERE ANYMORE!
SEE? IT IS LIKE SOME SORT OF THOUGHT-STUFF: THE WAY IT SHIFTS AND CHANGES SHAPE; MELTS AWAY TO NOTHING.
IT SEEMS TO LEAD TOWARDS THAT CITADEL AHEAD.

UH-HUH. WHICH IS ALL MADE FROM THE SAME LIQUID FILIGREE GOOP, THIS "IDEOPLASM" OR WHATEVER.
THE INTRICACY... IT'S LIKE I SAID. WHATEVER LIVES HERE HAS TO BE INSANE, DON'T YOU THINK?
SOPHIE?

...

WELL, WELL. THE PROMETHEA IDEA. I HAD YOU IN... WHAT? THE FIFTH CENTURY?
I MUST SAY, YOU'VE TAKEN YOUR TIME GETTING HERE.
ACTUALLY, I WAS JUST ENJOYING A ROUND OF MANDRAKE PLAY WITH THE BOYS. WON'T YOU JOIN US?
EEEYAAA!
EEEYAAA!

THERE. NOW. I THINK INTRODUCTIONS ARE IN ORDER... THOUGH THERE'S SELDOM ORDER IN INTRODUCTIONS.
THE GENTLEMAN ON THE EIGHT-LEGGED HORSE IS THE NORSE MAGIC-GOD WOTAN. WHILE THIS MISCHEIVOUS LITTLE CHAP IS THE BOY MERCURY.
YOU KNOW THOTH OF COURSE. THOUGH NOT IN HIS NON-SYNCRETIC FORM. THE NOISY BEAST WITH HIM IS HIS APE, THE CYNOCEPHALUS.
I APOLOGIZE FOR MY CYNOCEPHALUS. HE AND THE TRICKSTER HANUMAN CURRENTLY HAVE A DISAGREEMENT. I EXPECT IT'S MONKEY BUSINESS.

GODS. REAL GODS. OH SOPHIE, THEY'RE SO... THEY'RE SO SWEET. I--I FEEL LIKE I'M GONNA CRY OR SOMETHING...
I KNOW. I-IT'S LIKE THEY'VE ALWAYS BEEN MANKIND'S VERY BEST... FRIENDS, I GUESS.
OLD FRIENDS.

HERE...
...COME ON UP. OUR PLAY'S AT AN INTERESTING STAGE. YOU MIGHT LEARN SOMETHING.
SO. WHAT FINALLY BRINGS YOU TO HOD? CALL ME THRICE-GREAT HERMES WHEN YOU ANSWER, BY THE WAY.
IS HE SERIOUS?
SHHH!

UH... TH-THRICE GREAT HERMES, MY FRIEND BARBARA SEARCHES FOR HER DEPARTED HUSBAND, STEVEN SHELLEY.
HE WAS BOTH WRITER AND OCCULTIST. WE THOUGHT WE MIGHT FIND HIM HERE.
HEY! EVERYTHING'S MADE FROM THAT QUICKSILVER STUFF...

NATURALLY. HOD'S WHERE ALL THE FORM SEEN IN THE LOWER SPHERES OF DREAM AND MATTER HAS ITS ORIGINS.
ALL PERCEIVABLE FORM IS MADE FROM THIS QUICKSILVER STUFF. WE CALL IT LANGUAGE.
HEY, THIS IS WRONG...

I MEAN, THERE'S ONLY ONE KNIGHT LEFT IN PLAY. HOW COME THE GAME'S CONTINUING? IT'S IMPOSSIBLE.
AH, WELL. THAT'S WHERE BEING OMNIPOTENT COMES IN USEFUL.
DEAR ME. JUST LOOK AT THAT POOR LITTLE KNIGHT...
...HE'S BEEN GOING AROUND THE BOARD ALL ALONE, TRYING NOT TO LAND ON THE SAME SQUARE TWICE.

YOU CAN SEE THE ORDER OF HIS MOVES.
GHAA! SOPHIE, WE'RE BACK ON THAT MAGIC SQUARE THING!
Y-YEAH...

...BUT THIS IS A DIFFERENT MAGIC SQUARE. THE NUMBERS ARE IN A DIFFERENT ORDER.
AWW GOD! SOPHIE, WE'RE OUTSIDE AGAIN! IF WE ARRIVE BACK ON THAT MOBIUS THING, I'LL SCREAM!
OH DEAR. NOBODY WANTS THAT.
MUCH BETTER IF WE CONTINUE WITH OUR STROLL.
MAY I, LADIES?
WAIT, WAIT A MINUTE. WE WEREN'T HAVING A STROLL! WE WERE ON THIS CHESS-BOARD IN A CHAMBER WITH YOU AND SOME OTHER GODS!
WERE WE? WELL, THAT DOESN'T MATTER HERE. IT'S ALL A STORY, ISN'T IT? IT'S ALL FICTION, ALL LANGUAGE...
IT CAN CHANGE LIKE QUICK SILVER
BUT...THIS ISN'T FICTION. THIS IS OUR REAL LIFE.
HA HA! REAL LIFE. NOW THERE'S A FICTION FOR YOU!!
WHAT'S IT MADE FROM? MEMORIES? IMPRESSIONS? A SEQUENCE OF PICTURES, A SCATTERING OF HALF-RECALLED WORDS...
DISJOINTED HIEROGLYPHIC COMIC STRIPS, UNWINDING IN OUR RESOLUTE THOM...
LANGUAGE
TO PERCEIVE FORM... EVEN THE FORM OR SHAPE OF YOUR OWN LIVES...YOU MUST DRESS IT IN LANGUAGE.
LANGUAGE IS THE STUFF OF FORM.
MATHEMATICS, FOR EXAMPLE, IS A LANGUAGE. CONSIDER THE FORMS IT PRODUCES...
CONNECT ITS NUMBERS IN SEQUENCE AND YOU PRODUCE THE MAGIC LINE OF EIGHT.
THIS MAGIC SQUARE OF EIGHT IS CALLED THE KOHNITZ FOLD.
DO YOU SEE? MATHEMATICS IS A LANGUAGE, A HUMAN INVENTION, A FICTION... AND YET IT CREATES SUCH ELEGANT FORM.
IT CREATES SPLENDOR.
IT CREATES TRUTH.
SO, EVERYTHING'S MADE FROM LANGUAGE? WE'RE MADE OF LANGUAGE? EVEN YOU?
OH, ESPECIALLY ME! HOW COULD HUMANS PERCEIVE GODS...ABSTRACT ESSENCES...WITHOUT CLOTHING THEM IN IMAGERY, STORIES, PICTURES...
...OR PICTURE-STORIES, FOR THAT MATTER.
PICTURE-STORIES?
OH, YOU KNOW: HIEROGLYPHICS, VASE PAINTINGS, WHATEVER. DID YOU THINK I MEANT?
BESIDES, WHAT COULD BE MORE APPROPRIATE THAN FOR A LANGUAGE-GOD TO MANIFEST THROUGH THE ORIGINAL PICTOGRAPHIC FORM OF LANGUAGE?
UHH...SO LIKE, WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
WHAT AM I SAYING?
I'M SAYING SOME FICTIONS MIGHT HAVE A REAL GOD HIDING BENEATH THE SURFACE OF THE PAGE.
I'M SAYING SOME FICTIONS MIGHT BE ALIVE...
...THAT'S WHAT I'M SAYING.
UHH...WHO WERE YOU LOOKING AT? THERE'S NOTHING BEHIND US...
OH, I HAVE MY JOTS. PLEASE PAY THEM NO ATTENTION.
NOW, LET US HEAD OVER HERE, SHALL WE?
THERE'S PEOPLE I'D LIKE YOU TO MEET.

OUR GAME IS PAUSED, MY FELLOWS. ONE CALLED THREE-TIMES-GREAT APPROACHES, IN A COMPANY OF MAIDENS.
HUH. WELL, CROWLEY, I MUST SAY, I DON'T FANCY YOURS MUCH.
WHY, SPLENDID! KNOWING YOUR TASTES, I IMAGINE "MINE" WOULD BE THE YOUNGER OF THESE DIVINELY-ESCORTED LADIES?
THRICE-NOBLE ONE! HOW MAY WE SERVE THEE?
DOCTOR, THIS FAIR LADY SEEKS HER HUSBAND, BOTH A SCRIBE AND SORCEROR. HAS HE PASSED THIS WAY, I WONDER?
UM, HIS NAME'S SHELLEY. STEVEN SHELLEY
HMM. YANK, WASN'T HE? WROTE CARTOON STRIPS. I THINK I REMEMBER HIM PASSING THROUGH HERE. HE WENT ON, THOUGH.
WAIT A SECOND... CROWLEY. YOU'RE ALEISTER CROWLEY!
HA HA. WHY, YES.
I KNOW
I--I JUST WANTED TO SAY, I LOVE YOUR WORK. THE THOTH DECK, IT'S JUST... IN-CREDIBLE.
WHY, THANK YOU. I WONDER, WOULD IT DISTRESS YOU GREATLY IF I KISSED YOUR BEHIND?
IGNORE THEM. I'M AUSTIN
W-WOULD...?
BARBARA, COME ON. WE'RE GETTING OUT OF HERE. YOU HEARD THE GUY SAY STEVE HAD GONE ON.
YEAH, BUT AUSTIN HERE'S SEEN HIM! COULDN'T HE SHOW US WHERE STEVE WENT?
A SPLENDID IDEA, MR. SPARE HERE CAN GUIDE YOU OUT OF HOD...
...ALTHOUGH I HOPE YOU'LL VISIT AGAIN SOON. PROMETHEA IS ONE OF MY FONDEST CREATIONS, YOU KNOW.
UH, WHICH WAY DO WE GO?
THAT WAY.
TRAVEL WELL, WOMEN. THE SPHERE OF THE MAGICIANS WISHES YOU A SAFE PASSAGE.
ROUTE 27

HUH! LIKE ANYBODY'S PASSAGE IS SAFE WITH THAT BALD CREEP AROUND
OH, THAT'S JUST CROWLEY'S WAY. SOMETIMES EVEN I CAN'T STAND THE CHAP. HE DOES A LOT OF IT TO IRRITATE DEE, OF COURSE
THAT OLD ENGLISH GUY! THAT WAS DOCTOR JOHN DEE, RIGHT? I'VE SEEN ENGRAVINGS
AND YOUR NAME SOUNDED FAMILIAR, MR ..?
I'M AUSTIN SPARE... OR AT LEAST I'M THE PART OF HIM THAT'S IN THIS REALM.
I WAS A BLOODY GOOD ARTIST. BETTER MAGICIAN, MIND YOU
I'VE HEARD OF YOU JACK... MY MAGICIAN FRIEND...SAID I SHOULDN'T TRY UNDERSTANDING YOUR WORK UNTIL I KNEW MORE.
HEY, WHAT'S THAT OVER THERE?
I MEAN, THOSE PEOPLE ARE FALLING SHOULDN'T WE HELP THEM?
THERE'S NO POINT, BARBARA, MY LOVELY. THEY'RE ALWAYS FALLING THAT'S THE LIGHTNING-STRUCK TOWER. IT'S THE SYMBOL OF THIS 27th PATH.
IT'S EVERY TOWER MAN OR WOMAN EVER BUILT... A BUILDING, A MARRIAGE, A CAREER... THAT WAS MEANT TO REACH HEAVEN.

THE LIGHTNING IS WHAT TEACHES US HUMILITY.
FOR ME, IT WAS WHEN JERRY BOMBED MY BRIXTON STUDIO DURING THE BLITZ.
HELL OF A £$%&ING MESS! LEFT ME PARALYZED DOWN MY RIGHT SIDE. COULDN'T BLOODY DRAW, COULD I?
WHAT DID YOU DO?
WELL, M'DARLING, WHAT DO YOU THINK I DID?
HALF PARALYZED OR NOT, I WAS STILL THE BEST BLOODY MAGICIAN IN LONDON, AND BUGGER CROWLEY IF HE SAYS OTHERWISE.
NO, ON SECOND THOUGHTS DON'T, JUST TO SPITE HIM.
ANYWAY, I TAUGHT MYSELF HOW TO DRAW PERFECTLY USING MY LEFT HAND, AT WHICH POINT MY RIGHT SIDE RECOVERED COMPLETELY.
WOW THAT'S AMAZING. I'D REALLY LIKE TO SEE SOME OF YOUR WORK.
I'D LIKE TO SHOW IT TO YOU... AND WHERE BETTER THAN HERE ON THE PATH BETWEEN MERCURY AND VENUS, BETWEEN EIGHT AND SEVEN...
BETWEEN INTELLECT... AND PASSION?
PERHAPS YOUR YOUNG FRIEND COULD RUN ON AHEAD? DOESN'T SHE HAVE SOMEWHERE SHE SHOULD BE?

ASSORE'S HOUSE OF MAGIC
HOLY GOD, WILLYA LOOK AT THIS?
EGO
RAYD
CUP
IT'S THE ENTIRE EVIL EIGHT... AND THEY'VE ONLY EXISTED FOR, LIKE, TWO WEEKS!
POP
POP
I'M NOT A DOG...
STAN'S RIGHT. THERE'S JELLYHEAD II, QUEEN BITCH, EL NIÑO, EROGENOUS ZOË...
DAMN! THERE'S FANMAN! AND CLYTEMNESTRA! THEY'VE ALL CRAWLED OUT OF NEW YORK'S WOODWORK SINCE THE DOLL'S LAST DISAPPEARANCE!
YEAH. SO HOW COME WE DIDN'T GET A CHANCE TO POUND THESE SCIENCE CREEPS?
GOOD QUESTION. FROM WHAT I HEAR, OUR SANDAL-SPORTING SCIENCE-RIVAL'S BEEN ACTIVE RECENTLY, AFTER LAYING LOW SINCE THE ELASTAGEL INCIDENT LAST NEW YEAR.
YOU'RE WRONG, BOB. I HAVE A KIND OF PSYCHIC RAPPORT WITH PROMETHEA, AND THIS KIND OF AGGRESSION JUST ISN'T HER STYLE...
YEAH, WELL, WHOEVER'S DOING THIS, THE QUESTION IS, WHAT ARE THEY GOING TO DO NEXT?
UHH...
WELL, DARLINGS, I THOUGHT THAT FIRST, I MIGHT TIDY YOU CIVIC DEFENDERS OUT OF THE WAY...

...WHICH WOULD GIVE ME A NICE CLEAR RUN AT KILLING THIS BEASTLY POSSESSED MAYOR, DON'T YOU THINK?
THE MAY
TO
...TEXTure...
WELL, NO, I DIDN'T VOTE FOR HIM EITHER...
SO...
...WHO WANTS TO GO FIRST?

NEXT: LOVE AND THE LAW

IMAGINARY LINES

Write to us at 7910 Ivanhoe Ave., Suite 438, La Jolla, CA 92037, email: promethea@wildstorm.com. All letters appreciated!

Greetings, travelers of the Immateria. We have some pleasant news to share with all of you today–Promethea has been nominated across the board for just about every category possible in the upcoming, and oh-so-prestigious, Eisner awards. Alan received another nod for best writer, following on the heels of his win last year; J.H. & Mick have been nominated for best penciller/inker team; Promethea herself was recognized for best continuing series; Promethea 10, "Sex, Stars & Serpents," was singled out as best individual issue; Jeromy Cox was nominated for best colorist, and, of course, Todd Klein for best letterer. You know, Todd, people are starting to talk...

Whew, I'm out of breath.

Dear Imaginary Lines,

I have trouble sleeping at night so I reach for PROMETHEA to read; soon my mind drifts away on clouds of wispy ideas and adventure. I fall asleep with a smile upon my face and a mind buzzing with Alan Moore's delightful prose.

I have collected comics for a long time, but very few have the soul and emotion of PROMETHEA. I hope PROMETHEA continues for many more years.

The artwork is beautiful with eccentric but delightful quirks. Up until PROMETHEA I was a huge Michael Turner fan but now I think I have changed.

J.H. WILLIAMS III
and MICK GRAY
Cover art

Jeromy Cox
Cover color

TODD KLEIN
Cover logo and
Cover Design

JIM LEE
Editorial Director

JOHN NEE
VP & General Manager

SCOTT DUNBIER
Group Editor

I just have a few questions, like: Will America's Best Comics ever have home subscriptions? How soon will Promethea have a serious love interest?

Sincerely,
Elvira Hardy Rockwell
Milwaukee, WI

Thank you, Elvira, we will endeavor to remain with you for a long time to come–wouldn't it be sad to imagine a world without Promethea?

Now for your queries; while the idea of an America's Best Comics subscription offer is one we would embrace, alas, it seems we are in the minority. Many comic stores offer a subscription service, check with yours. Or, if you aren't near a specialty shop, you might consider one of the many comics mail order services that are available. As for a serious love interest, hmm, we've had some pretty good sex, it's possible love could show up also.

Dear Prometheans,

With the heaps of praise being lobbed your way, let us not forget Jeromy Cox. Like Alan Moore's stories, Cox's colors just keep showing me things I have never seen before. The Caduceus, the Elastagel, Stacia's hair, Promethea's skin and that stunning two-page spread of the Universe in Issue 13 are absolutely the best I have ever seen, and I have been reading comics for forty years.

Also, let me say how great it is that the hippest, most mind expanding, most fascinating, most literate and grown-up comic around is called PROMETHEA. You can't imagine how embarrassing that whole *Swamp Thing* deal was.

Yours,
Michael B. Conway
Memphis, TN

You're right Michael, Jeromy certainly is one of the very best colorists we have. As a matter of fact, we'd go so far as to say Mr. Cox is truly one of America's Best colorists!

Okay, folks, okay–enough indulgence. You've been doing eye candy, brain candy, soul candy, anything but story. I rather like story. I INSIST on story. If you want my $2.95 past issue 16, you will SUPPLY story.

Ellen Kuhfeld

Sorry you feel that way, Ellen. We, on the other hand, can find a story in the most unlikely of settings or circumstances. And for a couple of counterpoints...

Imaginary Lines,

I don't know why some people are complaining. In the letters column in issue 14, a couple of people went on about how they didn't agree with the direction in which the book is going. To that, I say, "Stop buying" (which one person has done, apparently). Yes, sometimes I feel PROMETHEA is slow, sometimes I struggle to move through Alan Moore's propensity for wordiness. But he is handling some heavy and often untraveled territory here, and as a writer myself, I can certainly understand his need to make sure everyone understands. This book is about a journey of self. Through learning about the characters, we are to learn about ourselves. Whether we agree with what Alan is saying or not, we cannot argue with how he is saying it. It's his book. He's writing it. It's his words. Some should realize this. Please continue challenging both the medium and its readers.

Thanks for a piece of literature.

Nick Kask

People sure like to complain when they're not getting the standard crap fare, don't they? I just wanted to let you guys know what a wonderful job you're doing on this book. When I started buying it, it was there and I was enjoying it, but there were several times that I would let it stay at the comic shop for a few days, or pick it up because it was a slow week. Strange that it has become THE book I look forward to every month (or so). This book is so new and different, at least for comics, no wonder some people are getting nervous.

It's rare in any medium that we have examples of high art. PROMETHEA is one of those books that introduces us to things in the outside world, and whether it's magic or the artist that has influenced the cover for the month, there's something new to us and that is a gift that Moore and Williams III didn't have to give us, but did.

I guess the main reason I'm writing is because I'm tired of people saying there's nothing new or interesting in comics anymore, but when something comes along as well crafted as this book, that lets you go somewhere else for a short while in a way that no other book is doing, they start to whine. This book is vital. Each month, I read a lot of comics, some good, some bad, but PROMETHEA is the only one that I stop and isolate myself–just so I can drift slowly through it and see where I'm going to go this month. It's a puzzle and I enjoy trying to see the structure between the story and the layouts of the artists.

Oh, and was that Alan and J.H. meeting at the station? You guys rock!

Brian Griesbach

Nick and Brian, thank you both, this book is created for the two of you, and all the other readers out there who want to stretch the boundaries of imagination.

And, yes, that was Messrs. Moore and Williams–just checking in to make sure things are running smoothly.